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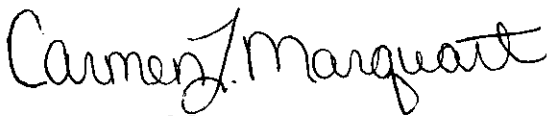
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Dear Ms. Dixon,

- I am currently taking an Environmental Science course at Washington State University. The Yucca Mountain Project was recently brought to the attention of my discussion group and from the information that I was given I feel that the project is very harmful. Not only will it hurt the environment that surrounds the area, but if there are any complications it could also hurt the people that live in the area of Yucca Mountain.
- In reading the information that was given to me I found several large problems with the project, the first being the location of Yucca Mountain. Yucca Mountain rests on over 30 active earthquake fault-lines. You cannot tell me that the DOE is unaware of this fact, so obviously the DOE just doesn't care that if an earthquake hits and those "corrosion-resistant" metal containers are damaged the nuclear waste that is stored in them will leak into the groundwater!
- The second problem that I see with the Yucca Mountain is the supposed "corrosion-resistant" containers that the hazardous waste will be stored in. These containers are said to have a life span of at least 1000 years. This data was collected off of a lab test and extrapolated to show 1000s of years of reliability. I find it very hard to believe that we have the technology to predict the reliability of a nuclear waste storage container that far in the future.
- Finally, and most importantly if Yucca Mountain opens in 2010, it will be filled the same day! Knowing this, the problem that you are working to solve will be right back to where we are today.

I am not familiar with any alternative solutions being looked at by the DOE, but instead of finding a short-term solution to a long-term problem, shouldn't we be looking for a long-term solution.

Thank you,



Carmen L. Marquart